Revival of HMT

2029. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of turnaround plan of HMT approved by Government in 2002;

(b) whether there is any new proposal to revive HMT;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the wage revision of HMT employees is under Government's consideration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The turnaround plan of HMT was approved by the Government in the year 2000. On the account of organizational restructuring, three new subsidiaries were created and the unviable units closed. Further, fresh infusion of equity and loan given to liquidate outstanding statutory dues, debt settlement and salary support. However, this turnaround plan could not make the company, HMT and its subsidiaries, profit yielding due to lack of technological upgradation and availability of sufficient working capital.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The company and its subsidiaries have been asked to prepare revival plans to be submitted before the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE). The revival plans are under advanced stage of preparation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

BID by BHEL for power projects

2030. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether BHEL had submitted its bid for 2000 MW power project at Subansiri in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether any letter of intent has been issued;

(c) if so, whether the contract has been awarded to BHEL; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) An independent Expert Committee under Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has been appointed to enquire into the matter and the report of the Committee is awaited.

Vocational courses to Bachelor Degree students

2031. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has suggested to diverse educational institutions by offering vocational courses to Bachelor Degree students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific steps taken by the UGC to go beyond issuing advisories and circulars on this matter;

(d) whether any financial incentives have been offered to the colleges who have introduced vocational courses alongwith their degree programmes; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission has introduced a flexible system of certificate/diploma/ advance diploma programme, which will run parallel to the conventional B.A., B.Com., and B.Sc., degrees. The universities/colleges are, however, free to identify their own 'Need Based' career oriented courses.

(c) to (e) The UGC invities proposals from the colleges through advertisements in the national dailies throughout the country. The guidelines of the scheme, various courses offered, list of the selected colleges and application format are available on the UGC's website. The UGC had organized Seminars on 'Vocationalisation of Higher Education' to popularise the above scheme and enlarge awareness in the remote areas.